

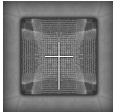


CHISELED

BECOMING THE MASTERPIECE GOD CREATED YOU TO BE

- Session 1: Called to Follow
- Session 2: Willing to Risk
- Session 3: Challenged to Grow
- Session 4: Motivated to Serve
- Session 5: Allowed to Fail
- Session 6: Restored to Lead

PHIL TUTTLE
WALK THRU THE BIBLE®

BIBLICAL  CHARACTER

S E R I E S

Session 1: Called to Follow

Ephesians 2:8-10

1 John 3:1-3

God is seeking not just _____ who populate heaven
but _____ who imitate Jesus.

The Setting

Luke 5:1-2

The Progression

Luke 5:3

Jesus asks Peter to _____ his boat.

Peter's _____ makes it possible for more people to
hear Jesus.

**Becoming a disciple often begins with an unexpected
opportunity.**

Luke 5:4-5

Peter _____ it will work out but _____
anyway.

Peter risks _____ from his family and coworkers.

**Becoming a disciple often conflicts with our experience,
expertise, and expectations.**

Luke
5:6-8

Peter recognises the contrast between Jesus' _____
and his own _____.

Luke
5:9-11

Jesus calls Peter to fish for _____.

Becoming a disciple ultimately redefines our life purpose.

Session 1: Called to Follow

Discuss

1. What do you know about the disciple called Peter? If someone were to ask you to describe him, what would you say?
2. Like Peter, have you ever had an unexpected opportunity because of being a disciple of Christ?
3. Peter doubted that he would catch any fish when Jesus told him to let down his nets, but he obeyed anyway. How did Jesus respond to his doubt? His obedience? What can we learn about doubt from this exchange between Peter and Jesus?
4. Why is it hard to risk looking foolish for Christ?
5. Jesus used something from the disciples' daily lives, fishing, to teach them about himself and to show His power. Can you think of something in your life that God has used to show you more of Himself?

Reflect

1. Do you consider yourself a follower of Christ? If so, has it changed your life purpose? How?
2. When Jesus calls for your obedience, do you usually respond right away? Do you hesitate? Or do you ignore his call? Is there something He is asking you to do now?
3. Has God ever asked you to give something up for Him? Did you obey? What was the result?
4. How has following Jesus conflicted with your experience or expectations of Him? Has He ever surprised you?
5. Are there any people in your life that you could "fish" for? Write their names here and commit to pray for them regularly.

Session 2: Willing to Risk

The Setting

Matthew 14:22-24

The Story

Matthew 14:25-27

Jesus identifies himself and tells the disciples not to _____.

Matthew 14:28

Peter requests an invitation to do something _____.

Becoming a disciple often requires us to face our fears.

Matthew 14:29

Peter obeys and takes a big _____.

Becoming a disciple often requires a bold step of faith.

Matthew 14:30-31

Peter shifts his focus from Jesus to his _____.

Jesus rescues Peter and encourages him to move from _____ to _____.

Matthew 14:32-33

Peter's risk causes the other disciples to _____ Jesus.

Becoming a disciple often requires us to take risks when others won't.

Session 2: Willing to Risk

Discuss

1. What are some common fears? Why might being a Christian require us to face our fears?
2. The lake had been choppy all night. Why do you think Peter asked Jesus to tell him to join Him on the water? What does that reveal to us about Peter?
3. People often belittle Peter for not having enough faith to keep from sinking, yet the other disciples never got out of the boat. He was the only one. How might that change your perspective of Peter?
4. What are some risks that followers of Christ might take today?
5. Has there ever been a time in your life when you were afraid and the Lord helped you? Describe what happened. Did it lead you to praise and worship Him?

Reflect

1. Peter obeyed and got out of the boat. What is your boat? What is your safety net?
2. The other disciples stayed in the boat. What fears are keeping you in the boat? What fears is Jesus calling you to face?
3. Fear can rob us of joy. Have you experienced that before? When? What can you do in the future when fear threatens to steal your joy?
4. Do you view risk as something to be avoided at all costs, or are you willing to do it if necessary? Have you ever taken a risk for Christ?
5. Is Jesus urging you to take a bold step of faith of some kind? Maybe that means trusting Him with your finances, your health, your children, or your circumstances, or maybe it means taking a stand for Him in some aspect of your life. What do you need to do in order to obey?

Session 3: Challenged to Grow

Public Opinion

Matthew 16:13-14

Personal Declaration

Matthew 16:15-16

Peter declares that Jesus is the _____ and God's own Son.

Becoming a disciple often requires us to declare our beliefs even when they are unpopular.

Jesus' Affirmation

Matthew 16:17-23

Peter struggles to _____ and _____ Jesus' mission.

Becoming a disciple often requires us to set aside our own agenda and pursue God's plan.

Jesus' Transfiguration

Matthew 17:1-3

Jesus reveals His _____ to Peter, James, and John.

Matthew 17:4

Peter recognises that this moment is _____.

Matthew 17:5

God interrupts Peter and proclaims Jesus' true _____.

God tells Peter to _____ to Jesus.

Matthew 17:6-8

Becoming a disciple often involves focusing on Jesus in spite of our fears.

Session 3: Challenged to Grow

Discuss

1. “A man who said the kinds of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher, as some claim, but rather, he would be a lunatic or a liar from hell.” Josh McDowell and other writers and speakers often refer to this argument presented by C.S. Lewis in his book, *Mere Christianity*. Jesus claimed He was the Son of God. Like Peter and the disciples, everyone must decide which claim is true. What do you think most people believe about Jesus today?
2. Why do you think Jesus called Peter a stumbling block? What was driving Peter to say such things? What were likely his *human concerns*?
3. Why might Jesus have chosen Peter as one of the three disciples who accompanied Him up the mountain?
4. How might the things we’ve discussed today have *chiseled* Peter?
5. Can you think of other people in the Bible who were shown God’s glory? Who were they, and what happened?

Reflect

1. Who is Jesus to you? List as many of His names and titles as you can think of. Which is most precious to you? Why?
2. Have you ever struggled to understand God’s plan, either for the world or in your own life? Looking back, did you come to understand it over time, or are you still wondering? What are some scriptures that might be helpful as you work through it?
3. Think back to a significant or meaningful moment you’ve had with Jesus. What happened? What was the result? Did it change you?
4. How has God chiseled your character in the past? Are you experiencing a time of chiseling right now? What do you think God wants you to learn?

Session 4: Motivated to Serve

Mark 9:33-35

The disciples argue about which of them is the _____.

Jesus addresses the dispute by _____ greatness.

Becoming a disciple often requires us to think differently about success.

The Setting

John 13:1-2

The Surprise

John 13:3-5

Becoming a disciple often demands that we humble ourselves like Jesus.

John 13:6-11

Peter _____ Jesus serving him.

Jesus answers Peter that he will eventually _____.

John 13:12-17

Jesus calls the disciples to follow His _____.

Becoming a disciple compels us to serve others.

Session 4: Motivated to Serve

Discuss

1. Jesus knew what the disciples were arguing about on the road to Capernaum, and He took that opportunity to redefine success for them and for us. Why would Jesus' disciples need to think differently about success than the world does?
2. Matthew 20:16; Matthew 23:12; Luke 14:11; Luke 18:9-14.
Jesus no doubt surprised His listeners when He spoke like this, and at the Last Supper, He illustrates this concept for the disciples in a vivid way. Why were his actions so disturbing to Peter? How would you have felt? What might you learn from it?
3. Jesus told Peter that he was clean. What might He have meant by that?
4. Why is it so hard for us to humble ourselves? Try listing some reasons.

Reflect

1. Make a list of people you know who are successful on Jesus' terms and explain why you think so. What can you learn from their example?
2. Read Philippians 2. How ready are you to humble yourself like Jesus did? Do you think this is an area where God might want to do some chiseling in your life?
3. The opposite of humility is pride. C. S. Lewis said, *"There is no fault which makes a man more unpopular, and no fault which we are more unconscious of in ourselves."* He also wrote, *"If you think you are not conceited, it means that you are very conceited indeed."* In what areas of your life do you struggle with pride? Ask the Lord to show you your pride and to help you deal with it.
4. In John 13:14-15, Jesus commands us to wash each other's feet. Do you ever find it hard to serve others? What are some ways He might be calling you to serve others?
5. John 13:1 tells us that Jesus loved His friends. What do you think it was like for the original disciples to be loved by Jesus? What are some ways Jesus shows His love for you? (John 15:9-17 and John 10:11-15 might be helpful as you think about this.)

Session 5: Allowed to Fail

The Prediction

Luke 22:31-32

Jesus predicts Peter's temptation, _____, and repentance.

Luke 22:33

Peter rejects Jesus' prediction and pledges his unwavering _____.

Luke 22:34

Jesus emphatically predicts Peter's _____.

The Fulfilment

Luke 22:47-51

Peter demonstrates his _____ to risk his life for Jesus.

Jesus _____ Peter and _____ the damage he caused.

Becoming a disciple requires us to embrace our never-ending need for correction.

Luke 22:54-60

Peter denies Jesus three times, just as He had _____.

Luke 22:61-62

Becoming a disciple requires us to understand that we will sometimes fail Jesus.

The Troubling Question

Why would Jesus pray for Peter but then allow him to fail?

Becoming a disciple requires enough failure to move us from arrogance back to humility.

Session 5: Allowed to Fail

Discuss

1. Peter distinguishes himself as a leader early in Jesus' ministry, and we often see exchanges between him and Jesus in the Gospels. In Luke 22:31-32, Jesus singles him out in a way that must have unnerved and distressed him. Why?
2. What are some of the factors that led to Peter trying to defend Jesus? What was likely the disciples' physical, mental, and emotional state at the time? How was it a human response versus Jesus' response?
3. With our knowledge of scripture and present-day perspective, it is easy to think that we would not deny Jesus like Peter did. Read 1Cor10:11-12. What are some examples of other people in the Bible who failed, repented, and were restored? What do the failures of Bible characters teach us?
4. It's difficult to accept that we will sometimes fail Jesus. How must Peter have felt when Jesus looked straight at him? What factors might have caused him to deny Jesus? List as many as you can think of. Have you fallen prey to any of these factors yourself?
5. How can we stand firm in our faith? Here are some passages to give you some ideas: 1Cor10:13; 1Cor15:58, 1Cor16:13, Eph 6:10-18.

Reflect

1. Like Peter, have you ever denied knowing Jesus? What happened? What did you learn from the experience?
2. God can use our failures to chisel us. When you have failed, how have you responded? Have you allowed God to use it in your life? Have you grown from it?
3. We tend to act as if we don't need God, or as if we can do everything ourselves. Then something happens to humble us, as it did for Peter. The Apostle Paul struggled with a thorn in the flesh. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What does Paul say about God's grace? Have you ever seen this in your own life? How can you put this concept of human weakness/God's strength into practice in your own life?
4. Stephen was the first martyr for Christ (Acts 7). The disciples later died martyrs' deaths—all except for John. Ever since then, Christians have been persecuted, tortured, and killed for their faith in Christ. Write a prayer below asking God to strengthen and encourage Christians who are being persecuted. Consider finding out how you can help them.

Session 6: Restored to Lead

Acts 2

Peter _____ addresses the skeptical crowd at Pentecost.

1 Peter 4:12-18

Peter _____ calls suffering believers to joyfully endure painful trials.

The Background

Mark 16:6-7

Becoming a disciple means no matter how far we wander, Jesus is still eager to meet us.

The Reunion

John 21:1-3

After his recent failures, Peter decides to go _____.

Despite fishing all night, they catch _____.

John 21:4-6

Jesus causes them to _____ their first experience with him.

Becoming a disciple sometimes means going back to where we began with Jesus.

John 21:7-8

Once again, Peter gets out of the boat to _____ Jesus.

John 21:9-14

Jesus _____ for their fish even though He already had fish on the fire.

John 21:15-17

Jesus' triple restoration completely _____ Peter's triple denial.

John 21:18-19

Just like at their first meeting at this same seashore, Jesus tells Peter, _____.

Becoming a disciple invites us to embrace Christ's forgiveness and follow Him like never before.

Session 6: Restored to Lead

Discuss

1. This story is filled with details that would remind the disciples of their first encounter with Jesus. What parallels do you see?
2. Why do you think Jesus asked for their fish when He already had some cooking?
3. One thing that resulted from God's chiseling of Peter is that he could encourage and exhort fellow believers with authority and experience. Read these verses: 1 Peter 1:6-7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 Peter 2:21-25. How might these passages have come directly from his experiences in this study?
4. We know that being chiseled or disciplined is not pleasant, yet scripture says that God disciplines those He loves (Hebrews 12:4- 11). Can you share a time of being chiseled yourself and the results that came from it?
5. How did Jesus' three questions restore Peter? What might have happened to Peter and later, the Church, without that restoration?

Reflect

1. Have you ever felt that God could not or would not forgive you of your sin? What are some passages from scripture that prove otherwise?
2. Have you ever wandered away from Jesus? What happened to you during that time? What brought you back? What did God show you about yourself and about Himself?
3. We sometimes forget what brought us to Jesus in the beginning. Think back to where your journey with Him began. Write a prayer of thanksgiving with specific praises for what He has done for you.
4. Can you think of a time when you have spoken boldly for Jesus?
5. Looking back over this study of Peter, what are three things you have learned that you want to remember?

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